

# U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

**FLOTILLA 3-10**

**Callao, Virginia**



**Division 3, 5th Southern**

Andris Baltins, FC [apbaltins@msn.com](mailto:apbaltins@msn.com)

Linda Steele, Editor [steelelk59@gmail.com](mailto:steelelk59@gmail.com)

***Boating  
Safety***

**Advocate  
Newsletter**

**August, 2018**

## BRIDGE TALK

### Growing the Flotilla

Shipmates, As I pass the half way point in my current position within the flotilla as flotilla commander, I reflect on the past activities of the flotilla to envision the future. My first step was to review the newsletters written by Erik Amato, who always did a fantastic job in publishing the award winning monthly publication. In the review, names such as: Joe Riley, Gary Palsgrove, Ed Gray, Ollie Knight, Erik Amato, past commanders, and others such as Charlie Thomas, Fred Woodard, David Brack, Phil Landry, Alvin Lynn, Sal Puglisi, and Glen Thomason all come to mind when the length and activity in the flotilla are considered. As we look forward to the next Flotilla Meeting, which happens to also be our annual picnic, it is an opportunity for all newer members to fellowship with the "Old Guard" as well as

the retired members that choose to attend the picnic in order to greet old friends and of course to make new ones. Everyone is reminded that bringing a spouse, significant other, or friend is encouraged. During the previous year we did lose members to transfers, retirements, and crossing the bar. They will all be remembered as very valuable and losses to our flotilla. We need to encourage potential membership through our activities i.e. Safe Boating Classes, Safety Patrols, Vessel Safety Checks, and larger distribution of our newsletters. It is the reason for the picnic, with good food, fun, and fellowship, in order to build the team spirit. Remember that when an organization stops growing it starts dying.

Respectfully, **Andris Baltins, FC**

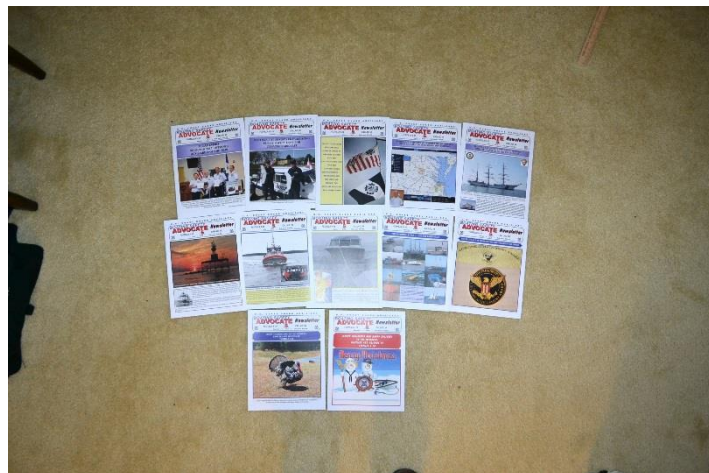


## FLOTILLA 3-10 *ADVOCATE* NEWSLETTER AWARDED 2016 DISTRICT BEST FLOTILLA PUBLICATION

At the July 14, 2018 Division Training Meeting at CG Station Milford Haven, after considerable delay, Erik Amato, past Flotilla Publication Officer was presented with a plaque for his efforts creating the “2016 District Best Flotilla Publication” for Flotilla 3-10. Eric Perkins, DCDR presented the award. Each year the past Commanders Association calls for the Division and Flotilla Publications to be submitted for judging. The awards are usually presented at the District D-Train Awards Banquet by the President of the PCA and the District Commodore. The publications may also be submitted to the National PA group for the selection of “Best in the Nation”. The 2017 *ADVOCATE* editions are waiting for the announcement of the 2017 judging cycle

so they can be submitted to the competition.

By Erik Amato Flotilla 3-10



## Giant Hogweed reportedly found in Virginia



The Massey Herbarium at Virginia Tech said in a Facebook post that 30 giant hogweed plants were discovered in Clarke County, located between Winchester and Leesburg. There have been reports from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) of sightings of Giant Hogweed in the Staunton area and Middlesex County. There is a strong possibility that the Giant Hogweed could find its way into the Coastal Virginia area.



If you have never heard of Giant Hogweed, you're not alone! But, Giant Hogweed makes Poison Ivy look like a

walk in the park. Skin reactions vary, but phytophotodermatitis can occur, meaning the sap makes the skin so sensitive to sunlight that severe burns can occur from normal exposure to sun. Symptoms include painful blisters, which become darkly pigmented and can cause scars. And, if the sap gets in your eyes, there is the potential for blindness.

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is an invasive herb originally brought to North America from Asia and has since become established in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Northwest regions of the United States. Giant hogweed grows along streams and rivers and in fields, forests, yards and roadsides, and can reach 14 feet or more in height with leaves up to 5 feet in width.



This plant is currently on the Virginia Invasive Plants Early Detection Species list - This designation means the plant is not yet widely established in Virginia but is known to be highly invasive. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation investigates reports of the

plant and takes action to eradicate it to prevent permanent establishment. Its flowers resemble a giant Queen Anne's Lace weed. If you come across this plant, you can report it but never touch it. Report sightings of invasive species here, (<http://www.vainvasivespecies.org/report-sightings>).

If someone comes into physical contact with giant hogweed, the following steps should be taken:

- Wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and COLD water as soon as possible.
- Keep the exposed area away from sunlight for 48 hours.
- If hogweed sap gets into the eyes, rinse them with water and wear sunglasses.

- See a doctor if any sign of reaction sets in.



The affected area of skin may remain sensitive to sunlight for a few years, so applying sun block and keeping the affected area shielded from the sun whenever possible are sensible precautions.



## Division Meeting at CG Station Milford Haven



Four of our members from flotilla 3-10 attended the Division Meeting at CG Station Milford Haven. They participated in training exercises, including member Tom Panther working inside the Damage Control simulator tank, getting very wet (photo by Brian McArdle). Other training activities were - handheld and aerial Flare hands-on training, and live fire - fire

extinguisher training. Members also got close up tours of the Station's 45 foot and 29-foot patrol boats, including all their operating systems and a walk-through tour of the station. The Division and Flotilla 33 provided lunch for the attendees. Pictured below are Andy Baltins, FC, Ed Gray, and Tom Panther. Picture by Erik Amato.



## FLOTILLA 3-10 2018 CALENDAR

### August

20– Flotilla Picnic

30 - FSO Reports and Calendar additions due

### September

17 – Flotilla Meeting – Snacks, Phil Landry

30 - FSO Reports and Calendar additions due

### October

16 - Flotilla meeting –Snacks, Sal Puglisi

30 - FSO Reports and Calendar additions due

### November

19- Flotilla meeting – Flotilla Election – Snacks, Andy Baltins

30 - FSO Reports and Calendar additions due

### December

1- Div 3 COW

Date TBD – Flotilla COW Dinner

30 - FSO Reports Due



# D5SR D-Train September 11-16, 2018



**Exciting New Classes and Presentations!**

*Just a sampling*

AUXLAMs • PV Qualification • Aton Verifier Qualification  
New Member • AMLOC • ICS 300 • AUX COMM • AUX WEA

*Reserve your hotel room*

Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/2576?groupID=2274126>

REGISTER FOR D-TRAIN COURSES AND EVENTS

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=2522138>



**Fifth Southern Flotilla 3-10  
Elected and Appointed Officers 2018**

Flotilla Commander . . . . .	Andris Baltins
Flotilla Vice Commander . . . . .	Gary I. Palsgrove
Communications . . . . .	Donald Chamberlain
Communications Services . . . . .	Karen M. Whelan
Finance . . . . .	Oliver M. Knight
Human Resources . . . . .	Gary I. Palsgrove
Information Services . . . . .	John F. O'Neil
Materials . . . . .	Glen R. Thomason
Member Training . . . . .	Joseph C. Riley
Navigation Systems . . . . .	Charles B. Thomas
Operations . . . . .	Charles B. Thomas
Public Affairs . . . . .	G. Edward Gray, Jr.
Publications . . . . .	Linda K. Steele
Public Education . . . . .	Frederick E. Woodard
RBS Program Visitor . . . . .	Philip K. Landry
Secretary/Records . . . . .	Thomas M. Panther
Vessel Examinations . . . . .	David J. Brack

---

*Published by the USCG Auxiliary at No Expense to The U.S. Government*


---

**Reminder to all Flotilla members and visitors**

**Flotilla 3-10 regular meetings are on the third Monday of each month at Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Callao, Virginia. Fellowship starts at 1900 with the meeting at 1930. New members or those interested in joining are welcomed to attend.**

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES &  
PHOTOS OF AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES  
AND ITEMS OF INTEREST TO:

Linda Steele at  
steelelk59@gmail.com



REMINDER: The Flotilla Web Site is alive and well! All Newsletters, Press Releases and PE Class Flyers will be posted when available – Check it out!

[www.Flotilla3-10.org](http://www.Flotilla3-10.org)